

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 remain pending in this application for which applicants seek reconsideration.

Amendment

Claims 1-13 have been amended to further improve their form and clarity. Moreover, each of independent claims 1 and 4-7 has been amended to define the array speaker unit. No new matter has been introduced.

Art Rejection

Claims 5-7 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Hilbert (USP 3,772,479). Claims 1-4, 8, 9, and 11-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Hilbert in view of Yeap (USP 4,118,601). Applicants submit that the present amendment obviates these rejections because none of the applied references disclose an array speaker unit, as presently defined in independent claims 1 and 4-7.

Specifically, each of independent claims 1 and 4-7 now explicitly define that the array speaker unit includes a plurality of speaker units and a delay circuit for each of the plurality of sound signals (e.g., channels). Each of the speaker units receives a predetermined delay from one of the delay circuits to emit a plurality of sounds from the speaker units in different directivities.

In rejecting the claims, the examiner appears to have broadly construed the array speaker unit as conventional left and right directional speakers. As the claims now define the array speaker unit, applicants submit that claims 1-13 clearly define over the applied references as neither of them discloses an array speaker unit.

Conclusion

Applicants submit that claims 1-13 patentably distinguish over the applied references and are in condition for allowance. Should the examiner have any issues concerning this reply or any other outstanding issues remaining in this application, applicants urge the examiner to contact the undersigned to expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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DATE

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REG. NO. 34,079 (RULE 34, WHERE APPLICABLE)

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